

Claims

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a user's computer system, a method for sending from the user's computer system a
5 policy controlled response to an information transfer request from a requesting computing
system, the method comprising:
 setting a user policy controlled by the user, the user policy defining parameters for use in
 controlling a response to be provided an automated reply to information transfer
 requests from the requesting computing system;
10 receiving an information transfer request from the requesting computing system; and
 applying parameters of the user policy to the information request to allocate a response
 and to set a response level based on the user policy in order to provide a policy-
 controlled automated response to the requesting computing system.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 delegating a response based on the response level and sending the response to the
 requesting computing system.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the response is response information requested by the
20 requesting computing system.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the act of delegating a response comprises:
 sending an unqualified response based on a first response level where an unqualified
 response is a complete response with no restrictions on its use; and
25 sending qualified response based on a second response level where a qualified response is
 partial response or a response with restrictions on its use.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the act of delegating a response further comprises sending no response based on a third response level.
- 5 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the act of sending a qualified response comprises:
detecting if use restrictions are to be included with a response sent to the requesting
computing system; and
attaching a restricted use policy to the response sent to the requesting computing system,
the use policy controlling use and further distribution of the response by the
10 requesting computing system.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of applying the user policy comprises:
comparing user policy parameters with request parameters in the request for information
from the requesting computing system; and
15 allocating response information and setting a response level based on the comparison of
the user policy parameters with the request parameters.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the response is authorization for the requesting computing
system to send information to the user's computing system.
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9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:
delegating a response based on the response level and sending the response with a
notification of restrictions on receipt of the information by the user's computing
system, the restrictions being based on the response level.
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10. A policy engine system in a computing cell phone for controlling automated responses from the computing cell phone to a requesting computing system, the controlled responses being based on a user policy specified by the user of the computing cell phone, the policy engine system comprising:
- 5 a database storing the user policy;
- an apply policy module applying parameters of the user policy to information transfer requests from the requesting computing system and filtering stored response information to create a filtered response for the requesting computing system based on the parameters of the user policy; and
- 10 a delegate response module sending the filtered response along with a use policy to the requesting computing system.
11. The system of claim 10 wherein the information transfer request is a send request to send information to the computing cell phone and:
- the apply policy module in response to the send request creates an authorization for the
- 15 requesting computing system to send information to the computing cell phone; and
- the delegate response module sends the authorization to the requesting computing system.
12. The system of claim 10, wherein the use policy contain rules for use of the filtered response by the requesting computing system.
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13. The system of claim 10, wherein the use policy contain rules for distribution of the filtered response by the requesting computing system to other computing systems.
14. The system of claim 10 further comprising:
- 25 a set policy module controlled by the user for entering and updating user policy rules and response information.

15. The system of claim 10, wherein the apply policy module comprises:
 retrieving policy parameters of the user policy from the database;
 a compare module comparing the policy parameters to request parameters in the request
 5 from the requesting computing system;
 an allocate module generating the filtered response based on a match between policy
 parameters and request parameters; and
 a compile module building a filtered response and a response level to pass to the delegate
 response module.
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16. The system of claim 15, wherein the delegate response module comprises:
 a test module detecting whether a use policy is to be included with the filtered response,
 the use policy controlling use of the filtered response by the requesting computing
 system; and
 15 a send module sending the filtered response with the use policy if the test module detects
 the use policy is to be included and sending only the filtered response if the test
 module detects the use policy is not to be included.
17. The system of claim 10, wherein the computing cell phone is within the communication
 20 domain of the requesting computing system and is being repeatedly polled by requests
 from the requesting computing system.
18. The system of claim 10 further comprising:
 a test module detecting whether the apply policy module created a filtered response;
 25 a query module for displaying the information request and identity of requesting
 computing system to the user if a filtered response was not created; and

an update module receiving new response information and new user policy rules from the user, storing the new response information and updating the user policy rules in the database.

19. A computer readable medium for storing computer instructions for a computer process for sending from a user's computer system a personal, policy-controlled automated response to an information transfer request from a requesting computing system, the computer process comprising:

receiving an information transfer request from the requesting computing system; and applying parameters of a user policy exclusively controlled by the user to the information request to compile a response and a response level based on the user policy; and sending a response to the requesting computing system based on the response level in order to provide a policy-controlled automated response to the requesting computing system.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein the computer process further comprises:

setting a user policy controlled by the user, the user policy defining parameters for use in controlling a response to be provided as an automated reply to information transfer requests from the requesting computing system;

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21. The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein the response is response information requested by the requesting computing system.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the act of sending a response comprises:

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sending an unqualified response based on a first response level where an unqualified response is a complete response with no qualifications on its use; and
sending qualified response based on a second response level where a qualified response is partial response or a response with qualifications on its use.

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23. The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the act of sending a response further comprises sending no response based on a third response level.

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24. The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the act of sending a qualified response comprises:
detecting if use restrictions are to be included with a response sent to the requesting computing system; and
attaching a restricted use policy to the response sent to the requesting computing system, the use policy controlling use and further distribution of the response by the requesting computing system.

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25. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the act of applying the user policy comprises:
comparing user policy parameters with request parameters in the request for information from the requesting computing system; and
allocating response information and setting a response level based on the comparison of the user policy parameters with the request parameters.

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26. The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein the response is authorization for the requesting computing system to send information to the user's computing system.

27. The computer readable medium of claim 26 further comprising:
- sending a response based on the response level and sending the response with a notification of restrictions on receipt of the information by the user's computing system, the restrictions being based on the response level.